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Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Issue 4

December 2025

January 2026

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Rector's Letter

Dear all,

During Advent and Christmas, we typically focus on new beginnings as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus's birth and the promise of new light and hope. However, endings feature at this time as well; in particular, the readings set for Advent look towards Christ's expected Second Coming at the end of times as expressed in the New Testament and in Christian theology. The Gospels, telling the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection are written in this tension: for how does one end the writing of the story of Christ's life and presence, as it is essentially ongoing?

That's why we'll be focussing on endings in our Advent Study Groups this year and looking at how our four Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John choose to end their Gospels and thus end a story which isn't yet finished. This topic should hopefully make for a thought-provoking Bible study but may also remind us that God isn't finished with us yet but opens new doors whenever we venture into Scripture and the Book of Life – this season and always.

Wishing you good endings and deep new beginnings in God this Advent & Christmas,

Christoph

Advent Study Groups in the Choir Vestry

Our Advent Study Groups will look at **Endings in the Gospels**: How does one end a story which is still ongoing? Two groups will meet in parallel on **Thursdays 4th, 11th and 18th December at 11.30am and 8pm.**

From the Registers

Funerals

Scott Dow 5th November

Jock McClumpa 25th November

Patrick Stirling-Aird 26th November

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

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Decorating the Church at Christmas

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on **Saturday 20th December at 10.30am.** All are welcome to help with this.

Appeal for Greenery

We are struggling to find greenery for the Advent Wreath and for Christmas.

If you have any shrubs or plants suitable for flower arrangements, can you please let ***Karen Ellis*** know (07980367214). She is happy to come and cut the greenery, if required.

Lost Property

The Lost Property box at the back of church contains several umbrellas, an odd glove, an egg ornament (not faberge)and a purse. Please claim any item that belongs to you.

HT Prayer Tree

The Prayer Tree situated at the back of church is an aid to prayer. Feel free to take a label and write your prayer/ message on it and hang it on the tree. **Please add the current date.** The label will be removed one month after this date but if you would like to leave the label on the tree please just alter the date or write another label.

Start Up Stirling

Start Up Stirling helps hundreds of individuals and families in hardship in the Stirling area all year round but Christmas is a time we try to make extra special, providing gifts and hampers. This year our Christmas appeal is a little different. We are splitting it into two parts.

First, to ensure we can distribute donations before Christmas we are asking for the following items to be donated before **11th December:**

Fluffy/thermal socks	Arts and crafts sets	Hot Chocolate
Mugs	Lego	Biscuits
Toiletry Gift Sets	Gift Vouchers	Coffee
Selection Boxes	Tins of Ham	Boxes/tubs of chocolates

Then, right up to Christmas we are asking people for the following staples:

And, we are once again inviting people to take part in the 'Reverse Advent Calendar'. Details on fliers in church.

Coffee Morning Marks 80 Years of Hope

On Saturday 25 October, the Stirling Christian Aid Group held a fundraising coffee morning in the Park Church Hall to mark the 80th Anniversary year of this important international charity.

The Group unites us with members of other church denominations across Stirling in supporting the work of Christian Aid, which, for 80 years, has been fighting poverty and injustice throughout the world. It offers hope to those who need it most, helping people to climb out of poverty and sustain themselves in their own communities.

This year's Coffee Morning raised a total of £1,016 for Christian Aid, thanks to a tremendous effort by the Group and great support from the Stirling community. It was a fitting way to mark the charity's 80th Anniversary." As befits any birthday celebration, several of those in attendance received a slice of a magnificent 80th Anniversary cake.

Unfortunately, neither of our Christian Aid representatives, David and Sheila Brown, were well enough to attend on the day. Both have now recovered.

A Quiz on the year 2025

We are going with multiple choice questions this year. No “ask a friend” or “phone the audience”, sorry. And no answers given!

Ashley, Bert and Conall were:

Names of storms

Names of Eurovision entrant

Names of footballers

There was a re-wilding lynx project this year. Was it:

A new golf course

Releasing cats in the wild

Releasing aftershave

Birmingham experienced ‘Binmageddon’. Was it

Shortage of bin bags

Too many bin bags

Bin collector strike

'Skibidi', “Delulu” and 'tradwife' among words added to Cambridge Dictionary. What does delulu mean?

French

Delusional

Incontinent

In October a lady in Kew was given a fine of £150.00 for pouring what down a drain on a road? The council later withdrew the penalty notice.

Beer, Oil, or Coffee

Quiz continues on page 15

Prayer Diary December 2025

Tue 2 Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637

Wed 3 Francis Xavier, Priest and Missionary, 1552

Thu 4 Clement of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, c214

Fri 5 Charles de Foucauld, Priest and Hermit, 1916

Sat 6 Nicholas of Myra, Bishop, 4th century

Sun 7 Second Sunday in Advent

Tue 9 The Conception of Mary, Mother of the Lord

Sun 14 Third Sunday in Advent

Sun 21 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Wed 24 Christmas Eve

Thu 25 Christmas Day

Fri 26 Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Sat 27 John, Apostle and Evangelist

Sun 28 First Sunday after Christmas

Mon 29 Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop and Martyr, 1170

Tue 30 Josephine Butler, 1906

Wed 31John Wycliffe, Priest, 1384

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Prayer Diary January 2026

Thu 1 The Naming of Jesus

Fri 2 Saraphim of Sarov, 1833

Sun 4 Second Sunday of Christmas

Tue 6 Epiphany

Sat 10 William Laud, Bishop, 1645

Sun 11 First Sunday after Epiphany

Tue 13 Kentigern (or Mungo), Bishop, c603

Wed 14 Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, c367

Sat 17 Antony of Egypt, Abbot, 356

Sun 18 The Confession of Peter

Mon 19 Commemoration of Scottish Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation

Wed 21 Agnes, Martyr, c304

Sat 24 Francis de Sales, Bishop, 1622

Sun 25 The Conversion of Paul

Mon 26 Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Tue 27 John Chrysostom, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith

Wed 28 Thomas Aquinas, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

Fri 30 Charles I, King and Martyr, 1649

Sat 31 Charles MacKenzie of Central Africa, Bishop, Martyr, 1862

Readings December 2025

Thursday 4th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 7th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
ADVENT 2	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Isaiah 11.1-10; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12
Thursday 11th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
ADVENT 3	**Readings**	Isaiah 35.1-10; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11
Thursday 18th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	**10.30am**	All Age Eucharist
ADVENT 4	**Readings**	Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25
Wednesday 24th	**11.00 pm**	Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS EVE	**Readings**	Isaiah 52.7-10; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14

Thursday 25th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
CHRISTMAS DAY	**Readings**	Isaiah 9.2-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20

Sunday 28th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
CHRISTMAS 1	**Readings**	Isaiah 63.7-9; Hebrews 2.10-18; Matthew 2.13-23

Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves

Readings January 2026

Thursday 1st	**No service**	
Sunday 4th	**8.30am**	Holy Communion
EPIPHANY	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
	Readings	Isaiah 60.1-6; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12
	5pm	Epiphany Carol Service
	Readings	tbc
Thursday 8th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
BAPTISM OF CHRIST	**Readings**	Isaiah 42.1-9; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-17
Thursday 15th	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 2	**Readings**	Isaiah 49.1-7; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42
Thursday 22nd	**11am**	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	**10.30am**	Sung Eucharist
EPIPHANY 3	**Readings**	Isaiah 9.1-4; 1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23
Thursday 29th	**11am**	Holy Communion

Our Services

Sundays
10.30am Sung Eucharist

First Sunday in the Month
8.30am Holy Communion

Thursdays
11.00am Holy Communion

At present Sunday School (HTKidZ) meets according to demand.
Contact Gen Pont for further information:
gandapont@yahoo.co.uk

Wishing all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Articles for the February edition are requested on or before

January 11th

The magazine will be available on

January 25th

Rotas December 2025

Readings	Intercessions
7th Dec M Kenyon	A Pont
14th Dec N Jorgensen	A Shaw
21st Dec T Mitchell	C Johnston
24th Dec G Lamb	
25th Dec D Brown	
28th Dec R Campbell	D Brown

Sidesduty

7th Dec R Campbell and A Lees

14th Dec S Goss and C Kendall

21st Dec L Coats and C Watson

24th Dec (Midnight) A Lees and volunteer

25th Dec R Nellist and volunteer

28th Dec A Lees and R Piper

HTTots

1st Dec R Campbell and K Ellis

8th Dec H Kemp and R Watson

15th Dec K Ellis and A Lees

Rotas January 2026

Readings	Intercessions
4th Jan A Tyler	**A Pont**
11th Jan W Wheeler	**T Mitchell**
18th Jan R Piper	**R Nellist**
25th Jan C Johnston	**R Piper**

Sidesduty

4th Jan S Goss and C Kendall

11th Jan L Coats and C Watson

18th Jan R Campbell and R Nellist

25th Jan A Lees and L Coats

Quiz (continued from page 7)

Which composer whose centenary was marked this year invented 'furniture music'? He always kept a hammer in his pocket for fear of muggers and once even founded his own church

Frank Sinatra *Jean Sibelius* *Erik Satie*

Heartthrob Terence Stamp passed away this year, which part did he play in the 1960s film of *Far from the Madding Crowd?*

Sgt Troy *Farmer Boldwood* *Gabriel Oak*

Well known pilot

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures to illustrate a biblical story. The teacher was startled to see one little boy was drawing an airplane. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy explained. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the figure in the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

Don't eat

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitus.

Helpers

What do you call Santa's helpers? Subordinate Clauses.

Let's play

Four-year-old to her two-year-old sister: "Let's play Christmas. I'll be Father Christmas, and you can be a present and I'll give you away."

With New Year's Resolutions in mind, here is John Wesley's rule of conduct:

Do all the good you can

By all the means you can

In all the ways you can

In all the places you can

At all the times you can

To all the people you can

As long as ever you can.

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Organisations Meeting in the Church Hall

Mondays

10-12noon HTTots Gen Pont: gandapont@yahoo.co.uk

4.00-6.15pm Destination Judo: info@destinationjudo.com

6.15-7.45pm Mindbodysoul Yoga: grant@mindbodysoulyoga.co.uk

Tuesdays

10-12noon Pilates: judithgraham090@gmail.com

6.30-8pm Lishi Self Defence: damien@lishi.org

Wednesdays

9.15-10.15 Pilates Mini Ball Class: Jackie.govan@live.com

12-1pm Latin and Ballroom Dance Class: stirling4community@gmail.com

5-7pm Dance: francescahamill@icloud.com

7-9pm SABOS: sabosmusicaltheatre@gmail.com

Thursdays

11-2pm Stirling Community Lunch: stirling4community@gmail.com

7pm Stirling4 Community Choir

Fridays

9.10-9.55 Pilates: judithgraham090@gmail.com

10-12 noon Art Group: stirling4community@gmail.com

2-5pm University of the Third Age (monthly): membership@fvu3a.org.uk

5-6pm Capoeira class: dendemaruouk@outlook.com

Saturdays

9-12.30 Babyballet: livingstonandfalkirk@babyballet.co.uk

The church hall is available for further lettings. If you would like to rent the hall please contact Sarah Shaw on 07970466551